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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Armenian Assembly of America	2
2.	Associated Country Women of the World	4
3.	Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha	8
4.	Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International	10
5.	National Women's Council of Catalonia	13

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Armenian Assembly of America

(Special, 1999)

PART I. Introduction

The Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit national membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with offices in Los Angeles, Boston, and Armenia. AAA provides opportunities for the participation of Armenian-Americans in the American democratic process; conducts research, education and advocacy for the universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide; supports the strengthening of the United States of America-Armenia relations, based on a shared vision for democracy, rule of law, open markets, regional security and unfettered commerce; promotes civil society initiatives in Armenia, encouraging free-market oriented, sustainable and responsible development; and works with other non-partisan advocacy entities and individuals in pursuit of shared goals.

PART II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, major conferences and other United Nations meetings

- 59th Annual DPI/NGO (United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations) Conference, United Nations, New York, 6-8 September 2006
- Forum *Genocide Then and Now: Lessons Learned for the Twenty-first Century*, co-sponsored by Armenian General Benevolent Union, Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, and Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations, New York, 30 March 2006
- United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 49th Session, United Nations, New York, 28 February-11 March 2005
- 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 7-9 September 2005
- 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 8-10 September 2004
- 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 8-10 September 2003
- Roundtable *Information Communication Technology: Education, Equality and Empowerment for the 21st Century*, co-sponsored by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the Committee on the Status of Women of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, New York, 15 January 2003

ii. Co-sponsorship of, or other specific contributions to events

- **59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, New York, 6-8 September 2006:** Co-sponsored and moderated a workshop *Education, Youth and Technology for Sustainable Development*, jointly with the Rotary International, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the CONGO Committee on Education, Information Habitat: Where Information Lives, and the Earthwatch Institute, 7 September 2006. Under oral remarks, AAA Main United Nations representative presented the work of an Armenian NGO (Earth Charter

National Committee of Armenia) and the synopsis of a written contribution on the Charter's best practices.

- **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 49th Session, New York, 28 February–11 March 2005:** Organized a workshop *Partnership to Empower Girls,* involving education specialists from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Government of Armenia and several women's organizations.
- **57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, New York, 8-10 September 2004:** Co-sponsored a workshop *Empowering Women Worldwide: Implications for Gender Equity,* jointly with Democracy Watch, Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment/Fielding Graduate Institute, Institute for the Study of Global Prosperity, and NGO Committee on the Status of Women; sponsored a panelist, who spoke on gender disparity and education in Armenia.
- **56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, New York, 8-10 September 2003:** AAA United Nations representative served as Media Chair of the Conference Planning Committee; Co-sponsored a workshop *Acting on Human Dignity and Security: From Participatory Theater to Reality on the World Stage,* jointly with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the National Council of Negro Women, Soroptimists International, featuring Augusto Boal, Founder, Theater of the Oppressed, Brazil. The workshop discussed the mission and activities of the Theater, a global organization dedicated to bringing art to impoverished audiences, and illustrating challenges facing the poor around the world; Worked, through the Media Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, and in partnership with the CONGO Education Committee, to organize a workshop *Media Perspectives on Human Security and Dignity*, sponsored by the CONGO Education Committee, National Council of Negro Women, Church Women United, and Sister to Sister International. The workshop featured an insider perspective on the media, and offered suggestions to NGOs on how to achieve better coverage of their issues.

iii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or agencies

AAA worked with UNESCO and the CONGO Committee on Education, to co-sponsor and moderate a workshop *Education, Youth and Technology for Sustainable Development* on 7 September 2006 (59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, New York).

AAA's United Nations representative served in the following capacities:

- Co-Chair, CONGO Committee on Education, since September 2006
- Acting Co-Chair, CONGO Committee on Education, May-September 2006
- Secretary, CONGO Committee on Education, June 2002-May 2006

Member at Large, CONGO Committee on the Status of Women: CONGO Committee on the Status of Women is a forum for the exchange of information on issues related to women, under consideration by the United Nations system. It assists in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the Women 2000-Beijing +5 agenda by facilitating discussion and cooperation among interested NGOs and individuals, supports the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and United Nations agencies working to improve the status of women, organizes consultation and training for NGOs

attending meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, briefs NGOs daily during the meetings and hosts an annual reception for NGOs and governments, and sponsors awards for women diplomats, and women of achievement. Member at large is a category of officers serving on the committee.

iv. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

i) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

AAA contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Armenia and the South Caucasus, by advocating for, or otherwise contributing to the following:

Goal: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

- United States humanitarian and development assistance to Armenia, special assistance for rural infrastructure development under the United States Millennium Challenge Account, and implementation of Armenia's Poverty Reduction and Rural Development Programs;
- Equitable regional development and integration in the South Caucasus, including access to regional infrastructure and open trade;
- Channeling Diasporan experience and expertise to help Armenia address its development needs and challenges;
- Peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict;
- Establishment of an NGO Training and Resource Center in Armenia, that has since 2005 evolved into an independent entity, with programs in community development, anti-corruption, HIV/AIDS prevention, peace and stability, social transition, etc.

Goal: Ensure Environmental Sustainability: Environmental awareness and reforestation programs in Armenia through the Assembly's Armenia Tree Project.

ii) **Activities in Support of Global Principles:** AAA is a member of several United States and international NGO coalitions committed to peace and security, development, human rights, as well as fight against the denial of genocide and other crimes against humanity. AAA activities in that regard include advocacy, community activism, academic, educational and media programs, rallies, as well as regular testimonies at relevant hearings before various bodies of the United States Congress.

2. Associated Country Women of the World

(Special, 1947)

I. INTRODUCTION: The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is the largest international organisation for rural women and is active in over 70 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa; Asia - Central, South, South-East, the Far East; North, Central and South America and the Caribbean; Eastern, Western and Central Europe; the South Pacific. ACWW aims to raise the living standard of women and their families through literacy, education and training; through community

development projects for income earning and for the promotion of agriculture, health, nutrition and childcare; through the elimination of discrimination and inequality of opportunity; through promotion of international cooperation and understanding. Project activity worldwide is financed from ACWW resources with occasional contributions from United Nations and development agencies.

II. CONTRIBUTION of the ORGANIZATION to the WORK of the UNITED NATIONS:

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings:

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) - Forty-seventh session, 3-14 March 2003, United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States of America - Attended by a member of ACWW's United Nations Committee and by its New York Representative. Co-signatory to non-governmental organisation (NGO) Statements on the principal themes: 1. Participation and access of women to the media and information and communication technologies, and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women; 2. Information communication technology and older women; 3. The media and older women; 4. Violence and older women; 5. Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action.

Forty-eighth session, 1-12 March 2004, New York, United States - Attended by ACWW's New York Representative. Co-signatory to NGO statements on the principal themes: 1. The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality; 2. Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management, and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building; 3. Girls' rights. **Forty-ninth session**, 28 February-11 March 2005, New York, United States - Attended by ACWW's United Nations Committee Vice-Chairman. Co-signatory to NGO statements: 1. Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives; 2. Identification of gaps and remaining challenges regarding: (a) Women and poverty / Women and the economy; (b) Violence against women - trafficking. **Fiftieth session**, 27 February-7 March 2006, New York, United States - Attended by ACWW's World President and by the Chairman of the ACWW United Nations Committee. Co-signatory to NGO statements on the principal themes: 1. Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and for the advancement of women, taking into account education, health and work; 2. Equal participation of women and men in decision making processes at all levels. **ACWW participated** in NGO workshops, panels, caucuses, etc, throughout the duration of the Commission on the Status of Women. ACWW is a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York and attended meetings on a monthly basis. ACWW was represented at regular meetings of the NGO Committees on the Status of Women in Geneva and Vienna.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSD)

Forty-first session, 10-21 February 2003, United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States: Co-signatory to a statement of international NGOs on the priority theme of preparations for and observance of 10th anniversary of International Year of the Family (IYF). **Forty-second session**, 4-14 February 2004, New York, United States: Co-signatory to a statement of international NGOs on the 10th anniversary of IYF. **Forty-third session**, 9-18 February 2005, New York, United States:

Co-signatory to a Statement of international NGOs on the 10th anniversary of IYF and beyond. **Forty-fourth session**, 8-17 February 2006, New York, United States. Attended by ACWW's New York Representative. Co-signatory to NGO statements entitled "Families living in extreme poverty", and "Family issues, policies and programmes". ACWW attends regular meetings of the NGO Committees on Ageing in New York and Geneva, and meetings of the NGO Committee on the Family in New York and Vienna.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, First session, 19-30 June 2006, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. Attended by ACWW's Geneva Representative. **Social Forum of the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**, 3-4 August 2006, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland: ACWW was one of only four NGOs invited to address the forum on the theme: "The fight against poverty and the right to participation: the role of women". ACWW's Geneva Representative gave an oral and visual presentation entitled The Face of Poverty - a Rural Woman. ACWW is a member of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is represented at meetings of the Subgroup on the Human Rights Council and Working Groups Displaced Children and Children in Armed Conflict.

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

ACWW was represented at the following: **Sixtieth session**, 22-28 April 2004, Shanghai, China. **Sixty-first session**, 12-18 May 2005, Bangkok, Thailand. **Sixty-second session**, 6-12 April 2006, Jakarta, Indonesia. **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**, 14-15 December 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: ECE preparatory meeting for the Ten-Year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialised agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) - Consultative Status since 1949, Operational relations since 1997.

UNESCO Participation Programme: ACWW received a grant of $17,000 from UNESCO to hold a leadership and capacity-building workshop for rural women from eight countries in Southern Africa, 6-10 December 2003, Johannesburg, South Africa. ACWW was represented at these UNESCO General Conferences: **Thirty-second session**, 29 September-17 October 2003, UNESCO, Paris, France. **Thirty-third session**, 3-21 October 2005, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France. **UNESCO International Conference of NGOs**, 14-16 December 2005, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France; this event is held every two years.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM) - Consultative status since 1989. ACWW's Representative in New York attends meetings of UNIFEM NGO Committee.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) - Consultative Status since 1947. ACWW was represented at the **FAO Conference, 32nd session**, 29 November-10 December 2004, Rome; **FAO Council, 125th session**, 26-28 November 2004,

Rome; **FAO Committee on Agriculture, 17th session**, 31 March- 4 April 2003, Rome, and **19th session**, 13-16 April 2005, Rome. ACWW's Rome Representative attends regular meetings of the Ad Hoc Group of International NGO's Representatives to FAO. ACWW was represented by the World President at an event to observe the **Twenty-third World Food Day**, 16 October 2003, Rome.

UNITED NATIONS CHILDRENS FUND (UNICEF) Consultative Status since 1953.

ACWW is represented at meetings of the NGO Committee on UNICEF in New York and Geneva, and at the UNICEF Working Group on Girls in New York.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by this organisation in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, which form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) aims to improve the lives of women and families who live at subsistence level in rural areas. Between 2003 and 2006, ACWW funded 97 micro development projects in countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Asia (Central, East and South), the Caribbean, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, the South Pacific. They were sponsored by the following ACWW programmes: **Water for All** which supports clean water and sanitation projects, providing water tanks, bore wells and hand pumps; **Women Feed the World** supports subsistence food production and cooperatives, training in farming techniques and credit savings schemes; **General Projects Fund** supports literacy, family planning initiatives, HIV/AIDS awareness, small business schemes and skill training; **Nutrition Education Fund** promotes good nutrition and improved hygiene. In addition ACWW offers scholarships and courses in home economics, welfare and citizenship for leaders in rural communities. The following are examples of development projects which relate to selected Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger - ***Target 1: Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day:***

Ghana, West Africa, May 2004-February 2005 - a women's farming co-operative was funded to clear and prepare land, purchase seeds, materials and equipment for the production of crops and vegetables. Seven hundred subsistence farmers benefited from an increase in food supply, and a proportion was sold at market. The proceeds enabled their children to attend school and helped to develop the project further. ACWW funded 19 other similar projects in countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, South America, and the South Pacific.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases -

ACWW funded 12 projects on HIV/AIDS awareness, malaria and tuberculosis throughout sub-Saharan Africa. One example is funding the first phase (1 April to 30 November 2006) of a 3-year project in the United Republic of Tanzania training 85 girls made orphans through HIV/AIDS. An HIV/AIDS awareness programme was held to educate the girls who will then learn how to teach others in their peer groups.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability - ***Target 10, Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and sanitation:***

ACWW funded the installation of 20 water tanks serving seven villages on the island of Tongatapu, Tonga, South Pacific. It ran one year between November 2004 and November 2005. Twenty other safe drinking water and sanitation systems were supported by ACWW throughout sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the South Pacific.

All the above activities, and other projects, together with news from UN agencies are included in ACWW's quarterly magazine The Countrywoman.

3. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha

(Special, 1999)

Part I: Introduction

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) is an activist women organization established in 1986 by a group of committed women with a vision of establishing a society with equal rights for women, from family to state. It considers its role as a facilitator in social transformation in order to attain social justice, peace and development, free from all forms of discrimination and oppression based on gender, class, ethnic identity and religion. Its mission is: ensuring "equality through empowerment".

Level of Interventions: BNPS is working through its regular programs at three levels: grassroots, national and regional. Advocacy lobbying for policy and legal reform, policy research, documentation and publication are under the national and regional level. On the other hand, raising awareness, organizing and mobilizing people (particularly women), building a positive opinion for changing traditional mindsets, and access to resources and information, are at the local level.

Change at Physical Areas: BNPS works in the Chittagong, Sandwip, Netrakona, Dhaka, Jessore, Khulna and Mymensingh districts of Bangladesh. Due to lack of resources, it has closed down one office from Khulna in 2003. On the other hand, it has had an office at Barhatta, under district Netrokona since 2005 due to demand raised by the people there. BNPS also shifted its central office from House 255, road 19 (old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka, to House 52, Road 8A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

The Executive Director of BNPS as a member (who had served 5 years) attended, actively participated, and contributed in the 7th External Gender Consultative Group (EGCG) at a World Bank meeting and Millennium Development Goals Workshop, Washington DC, 15-22 November 2003. The Executive Director of BNPS participated in the United Nations organised International Conference on "Sustainable Safety: Municipalities at the Crossroad", Durban, South Africa, 22-30 November 2003 and also participated in "Jubilee South Asia/Pacific Conference on the Privatisation of Water and Power Services" in Bangkok, Thailand, 8-12 December 2003. She also attended the 49th and 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York, New York, 28 February – 11 March 2005 and 27 February – 10 March 2006 where she contributed an alternative report for Bangladesh and also attended 8 other workshops and planned meetings on

globalisation. As a founder and core committee member of South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), the Executive Director of BNPS attended a series of meetings in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India for formulating policy document and advocacy, lobbying with SAARC and its member countries for increasing finance and policy reform, formulation to eradicate poverty and at least to achieve the target set by Millennium Development Goal 12 in March 2005 and from 27 Feb - 10 March 2006. She also participated in the Partner-Consultation on "Water and Democracy" hosted by Church Development Service (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst - EED) and Church World Service (CWS) in Hyderabad, India, 4-7 October 2006 and participated in the Steering Committee Meeting on Water and Democracy on 18 November 2006. In addition, she participated in consultation meeting of CWS on the Water and Democracy Network in Hyderabad, India, 28 December 2006. Moreover she attended and contributed to the Coalition of Asian Women (CAW) Forum on "Women Workers in Areas of Armed Conflict and Under Politically Suppressive Regimes" in Bangkok Thailand, 27-24 November 2006. Aside from these events, BNPS was also involved in the World Social Forum since its beginning. The Executive Director of BNPS attended and participated its preparatory meetings for the World Social Forum in Brazil from 27 June-4 July 2004, and actively participated in the next two forums in Mumbai, India, 15-23 January 2004, and in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 26-31 January 2005. The Executive Director of BNPS presented a paper at the Regional Conference on "Development Effectiveness through Gender Mainstreaming Lessons Learnt from South Asia" in New Delhi, India, 10-12 May 2005, which was organised by United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She also presented a paper at a symposium on "Gender and Trade Liberalisation" in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, 22-23 August 2005.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

The involvement of BNPS within the country and regional level is more than in the international level. The organization gives priority to its efforts to grassroots level within the country. Hence the representative of the organization cannot participate in all events. Moreover, due to scarcity of funds, the representative of BNPS cannot participate in all of the events, though the organization receives invitations regularly from the United Nations Geneva office.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals during the reporting period.

BNPS has implemented some regular programmes in Bangladesh and in South Asia which have contributed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The organization played an important role as Bangladesh's focal organization in the South Asia Association for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) to eradicate poverty. In its role as advocator and lobbyist of countries and governments, on the behalf of SAARC, the BNPS has addressed Millennium Development Goal 1. The organization conducted several studies on the quality of primary education in Bangladesh. The studies mentioned some gender and human rights related problems along with learning systems to advocate in its curriculum (Millennium Development Goal 2). BNPS conducted studies (starting from the year 2000) on the national budget in order to analyze the poor allocation for women, particularly on maternal health,

women's livelihood, and women's education and thus advocate for increasing this allocation. BNPS also provided microfinance support along with training on financial management, entrepreneurship development, and market linkage development to 30,000 women directly (Millennium Development Goals 1 and 5). BNPS is actively involved with the consultation on water and democracy on the South Asia level (Millennium Development Goal 7). BNPS is also very much active in working against racial discrimination, particularly discrimination towards ethnic and religious minorities and *dalits* (untouchables). BNPS published 10 booklets, posters, leaflets, bulletins, folders on all of the above areas as awareness and advocacy materials.

BNPS also works towards the political empowerment of women through involving them in local government, which also increases their access to public resources. It also provided training to 500 local government elected members, including female members, in order to make them gender sensitive in 10 districts. Also, 40 (watchdog) local committees have been formed and trained in the public auditing of local government activities; half of the members of these committees are women. Around 400,000 people throughout the country have been provided with information and awareness training on gender and environment, which helped increase space for women in political activities, parties, income generating activities, and education. Among these people are: students, lawyers, teachers, folk artists, writers, cultural groups, and ethnic and religious minority groups.

4. Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International

(Special, 2003)

PART I. Introduction

Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International (HURIDOCS), established in 1982, is a global network of organisations concerned with human rights. HURIDOCS itself does **not** collect information; rather, it functions as a decentralised network in which organisations can handle and exchange information according to their own requirements.

HURIDOCS facilitates human rights documentation work by:

- developing **tools and techniques** for human rights monitoring and information handling (such as formats for the recording and exchange of information on documents and on human rights violations).
- organising **training courses and workshops** on human rights information handling in co-operation with organisations involved in the network.
- providing **advice and support** on the establishment and maintenance of documentation centres and information systems.

HURIDOCS is an open-ended network where organisations can participate in various ways: Task Forces, training courses etc. HURIDOCS does not have a formal membership structure, but it has contacts with organisations in more than 150 countries. The main focus of HURIDOCS is to strengthen the information handling capacities of organisations in developing countries.

The objectives of HURIDOCS are:

1: To develop tools and techniques for monitoring, information management and communication; and to provide them to human rights organisations

2: To build the capacity of the human rights community to master and adapt these tools and techniques to their specific needs through training and other activities

3: To support human rights organisations to set up and strengthen their information systems

4: To improve human rights advocacy and reporting techniques

5: To expand human rights outreach and network capacity

6: To provide a centre of excellence on methods and techniques for human rights monitoring, documentation handling and information management

PART II. Contribution of the organisation to the work of the United Nations

1. Collaboration in training activities

HURIDOCS regularly collaborated with United Nations agencies in organising training activities in the field of human rights documentation.

a. Training Workshop on Techniques and Tools for Human Rights Information Handling and Documentation: Accra, Ghana, 13 – 16 December 2005

HURIDOCS, together with the Africa Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, organised this bilingual English/French regional training course. It was hosted by the Legon Centre for International Affairs. The aim of the workshop was to bring the participants together in order to assess ways of elaborating a general template for recording and exchanging information related to Human Rights violations for transmission to the OHCHR Geneva in the framework of the database which will be created by the new consultant on the matter.

Eighteen participants attended the workshop representing several OHCHR Headquarters, field presences, offices or Human Rights components of Peace-keeping missions: Human Rights office in Burundi, Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Human Rights Adviser in Togo, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Uganda, United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMIL), as well as representatives of human rights institutions and civil society organisations from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Togo and Uganda.

b. Training Course for Iraqi Librarians: Geneva, Switzerland, 27 November to 8 December 2006

HURIDOCS, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) organised a training course for Iraqi librarians. Its overall purpose was to train librarians working in legal and human rights libraries in Iraq on modern library management techniques. The training course constituted part of a larger project aiming to support the development and strengthening of an Iraqi led and owned national human rights protection system.

The fifteen participants for the course were selected by UNAMI HRO and the OHCHR. The primary beneficiaries are the librarians working in the library of the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, from which there were four participants. There were two participants from the Council of Representatives while other participants came from six different University libraries.

c. Training course in Haiti

As part of the plan following the training course held in 2002, a training course was held in Haiti in August 2003. The course was supported by the *United Nations Development Programme* and involved the teaching of tools for documenting human rights violations. The main resource person was Jean Baptise Azolin of *Haiti Solidarité International* who had taken part in HURIDOCS' Francophone trainers' training course held in Senegal in December 2002. The HURIDOCS Secretari gave support and advice for this training course which was attended by 16 participants from six Haitian NGOs.

d. Training Courses in Uzbekistan

At the request of the *United Nations Development Programme* in Tashkent, two trainings took place in Uzbekistan. They were held in the framework of a project to implement recommendations made b Theo van Boven, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture. From 28 to 30 September 2004 training course for human rights activists and lawyers was held, with 22 participants. A second training for staff from the Ministry of the Interior and police officers responsible for investigations was held on 5 and 6 December 2004, with 15 participants. The programmes of both courses include sessions on monitoring, documentation (including an introduction to the HURIDOCS software) and writing reports related to human rights events.

2. Participation in United Nations events

HURIDOCS participated in the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, 10-12 December, 2003. HURIDOCS organised a Workshop with the theme *Information Technology for Human Rights*. HURIDOCS also participated in some of the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council. In collaboration with several other Geneva-based NGOs, HURIDOCS presented its tools during lunch break sessions at the Commission on Human Rights as well as the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

3. Contacts with Geneva-based Bodies of the United Nations

HURIDOCS also had regular contacts with staff at the Geneva office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in particular with the National Institutions Unit, wi whom it held deliberations about a project concerning the *Development of a human rights informati management database*. HURIDOCS also provided inputs to a consultancy on this topic, and provide demonstrations of its tools to OHCHR staff. HURIDOCS also hosted different interns at the request of the OHCHR. HURIDOCS also had regular contacts with the Library/Documentation Centre of th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

4. Application of UNESCO software

The INDEP/SERIAL databases for bibliographic documentation contain the Bibliographic Standard Formats of HURIDOCS. These databases are programmed in the CDS/ISIS for Windows software, which is being developed and distributed by UNESCO.

During 2004, INDEP/SERIAL was updated and modified so as to facilitate installation. In 2005, new features were added to the INDEP/SERIAL database system based, in part, on new developments in UNESCO's CDS/ISIS. The system was translated into French in preparation for training courses in Rwanda. In 2006, the Arabic version of the CDS-ISIS for Windows software and the HURIDOCS Bibliographic Standard Formats were used at the training course for librarians from Iraq and made available to the participants.

5. Access to United Nations information through the HuriSearch search engine

HuriSearch www.hurisearch.org, the Web search engine developed by HURIDOCS, provides access to over 3,000 Websites of human rights organisations world-wide. This includes 28 Websites of organs within the United Nations system, including specialised agencies, which contain information about human rights.

5. National Women's Council of Catalonia

(Special, 1999)

Introduction

The National Women's Council of Catalonia (CNDC from now on) is the participative and consultative body of the Catalan Institute for Women, bringing together the different organisations, associations, groups and councils for women in Catalonia in order to operate comprehensively regarding issues related to the Action Plan of the Catalan government (the Generalitat de Catalunya) in the area of women's policies in the political, economic, social and cultural sphere.

On the 28 December 2004, amendments were made to the CNDC's by-laws, making it more functional and operative, with the publication of a decree in which the Territorial Assemblies of Women of Catalonia were also created. Without altering its basic aims, the CNDC was therefore broadened, made more participative and wide-ranging, ensuring the diversity of the women's association movement in Catalonia is represented as thoroughly as possible, as well as encouraging decentralisation.

The CNDC also promotes the participation and association of women and encourages networking. It responds to queries regarding the goals of the Catalan government's Action Plan in the area of women's policies, assesses their degree of implementation and participates in evaluating the actions taken. It makes new proposals to the Catalan Institute for Women on issues affecting women's groups. It proposes activities, seminars and campaigns to be carried out in order to raise awareness of women's contribution to society and to promote changes so that the specific nature of women's participation in the political, social, cultural and economic spheres is recognised, aiming to achieve social advances in any aspect, from the point of view of women. It also proposes suitable procedures for being actively involved in those forums and debates whose aim is women's policies or are of

particular interest to women. It issues reports on areas of interest to women and helps to raise awareness in society. It also monitors the increased involvement of women in government bodies and decision-making processes, both in the public and private sphere.

To date, a total of 279 NGOs form part of the CNDC, working for equal opportunities among men and women in all areas and to appraise and increase women's involvement in society. 25 of these NGOs are key organisations in the association network, as they are made up of other women's associations and groups with the same aims.

Contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other meetings of the United Nations

All of the sessions that we attended have influenced and contributed to the annual approaching of strategic subjects, the collaboration in the elaboration of the plans of equality of our Government and the knowledge of the performances that are carried out beyond our boundaries.

The network with the rest of entities help us to work to strengthen the links with the international organizations and to open new ways of cooperation.

- Attendance to and participation in the 47th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 3 - 14 March 2003, New York. Presentation of two written declarations: "Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women" and "Women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the Special Session for the General Assembly entitled "'Women: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

- Attendance to and participation in the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1 - 12 March 2004, New York. Presentation of two written declarations: "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality" and "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building"

- Attendance to and participation in the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 28 February - 11 March 2005, New York. The work of this session and the established contacts were arranged with the signature of an agreement with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Programme (PNUD).

- Attendance to and participation in the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 27 February - 10 March 2006, New York. Presentation of a written declaration about the two main subjects and a speech of Carme Riu (CNDC representative) in the general session of the General Assembly.

There was a meeting of Catalan representatives who attended the 50th Session.

Other

In this period, the National Women's Council of Catalonia has not been able to take part in other meetings of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as it has focused its work on issues related to the Catalan government's Action Plan in the area of women's policies in the political, economic, social and cultural sphere.

However, below is a list (not exhaustive) of various actions carried out by the National Women's Council of Catalonia by means of the representation of some of its members over the last four years (2003 – 2006):

2003

- Participation and support for the seminar on Women and Europe: Programmes and Aid, 25 February, Barcelona (Spain).

- Participation in the 1st International Congress of Women and Disability, 27 February - 1 March, Valencia (Spain).

- Participation in the Congress on the Status of Women in Small European States, 21 - 23 March, Andorra.

- Attendance to the Act commemorating the release of the prisoners from the Ravensbrück Women's Concentration Camp, 10 - 13 April, Ravensbrück (Germany).

- Presentation of five women as candidates for the 15th International Catalonia Award.

This award is given to those people whose work has played a decisive role in developing cultural, scientific or human values worldwide. The Egyptian writer and social activist, Nawal Al-Sa'dawi, won this award in 2003 for her work defending social and women's rights in the Arab world, for which she was imprisoned and sentenced to death by fundamentalist groups.

2004

- Participation in the World Women's Forum 2004, 29 - 31 July, Barcelona (Spain).

2005

Contribution to and direct participation in:

- Action and Development Plan for Women's Policies in Catalonia (2005-2007).

- Open public consultation by the European Commission on the Green Paper "Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations", published by the European Commission, 17 March, in Brussels (Belgium).

- White paper on women's rights to eradicate male-based violence.

- Drawing up the new Statute for Catalonia.

- Process of creating the State Council for Women, based on Directive 2002/73/EC of the European Parliament and Council, 23 September 2002.

- Euromed Women's Barcelona +10 Conference, 24 and 25 November 2005, Barcelona (Spain). Promoted by the Catalan government and with the collaboration of the European Commission, the Spanish government, the government of the province of Barcelona and Barcelona City Council.

2006

- Meeting of Catalan representatives within the framework of the 50th session of the CSW, 1 March 2006, New York.

- Follow-up on the White Paper of women's rights to eradicate male-based violence.

- Follow-up and participation in drawing up the *Framework protocol and national circuit for coordinated action against violence against women.*

- Participation and follow-up of the bill for the *Public General Act for equality between men and women.*

- Participation and follow-up of the bill for the *Act to promote the personal autonomy and care of dependent people.*